

insects in general and of the different groups and species referred to appears to be very correct; even the names of the groups and insects are generally rightly spelt—a rare occurrence indeed in popular books. The treatment adopted is as follows. After a short introduction, the author indicates the distinguishing characteristics of the class of Insects, and then describes in some detail the structure of the different parts of which these creatures are composed, and the nature of their metamorphoses, indicating, in connexion with the wings, the classification followed in the more special part of the book. This information is then summarized in a table of orders, with illustrative examples. Each order is then treated somewhat in the same fashion, characterized and divided into families or tribes, with descriptions of the appearance and habits of some of the commonest species belonging to it; and each of the larger orders has likewise its tabular synopsis, furnishing a summary of its contents. The systematic arrangement is doubtless open to criticism, and especially, as already stated, to the charge of being rather antiquated; but the learner who has acquired all the information which Miss Staveley affords will easily understand and appreciate the different views of other writers whose works may fall into his hands.

One of the great attractions of this book to the young entomologist will be the beautiful figures with which it is illustrated: these consist of sixteen excellent coloured plates by Mr. Robinson, and of a considerable number of woodcuts, both of details and of insects, scattered through the text. The whole of these figures are admirably executed; so that, both from a literary and an artistic point of view, we feel pleasure in recommending the book to our readers as an introduction to the study of entomology.

An Introductory Text-book of Zoology, for the Use of Junior Classes.

By H. ALLEYNE NICHOLSON, M.D., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S.E., F.G.S.
Sm. 8vo. Edinburgh and London: Blackwood, 1871.

We have already had occasion to speak in favourable terms of Dr. Nicholson's zoological manuals; and we have now to call attention to a third publication, of a more elementary nature than either of its predecessors, and intended, as the author tells us, "for the use of junior classes." This little work seems to us well adapted for its purpose, although perhaps the "junior classes" will be inclined to think that the quantity of technical terms which they are called upon to learn in order to understand its teachings is rather too great. Dr. Nicholson would indeed have done well to have adopted a more popular style in a junior class-book.

The arrangement adopted is the same as in the larger manuals, namely that of Prof. Huxley, followed almost without a variation. The classification is carried as far as the orders, and illustrative examples are cited and described under each group. The illustrations are for the most part, if not entirely, identical with those employed in the author's previous books, and are generally good.